

The Mobile Simulation Lab is a **FREE** educational resource available to EMS and fire instructors all over the state of Indiana. The MSL program has two adult iStan's and one PediaSIM (human patient simulators) made by CAE Healthcare. High fidelity simulation provides instructors with the ability to expose students and seasoned EMS personnel to real world situations in a safe environment.

What is simulation?

- An immersive patient care simulation focuses on overall patient management, clinical judgment, critical thinking, and problem solving behaviors that must occur in real world situations for the EMS practitioner to perform safely and proficiently.
- An immersive patient care simulation evaluates participant's ability to "put it all together."
- Simulation provides the ultimate in hands-on learning that every pre-hospital provider craves!
- Simulations are flexible – you can allow the simulator to react to assessment and treatment on its own, the technician can program specific responses to treatments (or lack thereof), and the technician can change reactions 'on the fly' if needed.
- An immersive patient care simulation is NOT intended to teach or evaluate specific skills, but participants are expected to perform those skills safely, correctly, and effectively during the simulation. (Students should have at least some previous practice of the skills that are expected to be used in the simulation.)

What do I need to know as an instructor?

- Although there are "canned" scenarios available, the simulation technician will work with you to develop simulations tailored to your agency, your protocols, and your performance objectives.
- Several people may be needed to assist with the simulation – one or more instructors/evaluators, extra people to act as the patient's family members, bystanders, and someone to "talk" as the simulated patient. Good simulation sessions require quite a bit of preparation.
- The simulation technician is a primary instructor and can provide introduction and assist with instruction, but the simulation is more believable and realistic if the technician is not in the back of the vehicle with the participants during the scenario and they interact with the simulator and the instructor/actors only.
- Each simulation can last up to 45 minutes per group including introduction, simulation, and debriefing.
- Debriefing is a crucial step in clarifying and consolidating insights and lessons from each simulation. The technician will assist with the debriefing.
- The MSL is an "ambulance," and the ideal group size is no more than four (4) participants at a time, preferably two or three. Having participants sign up or assigned to groups prior to the day of the simulations is helpful.
- The MSL can comfortably run eight (8) to sixteen (16) people through four individual simulations in four hours, with twelve (12) people being ideal.
- Although the simulator is capable of simulating trauma and bleeding, it is most effectively used simulating assessment and treatment of medical conditions – it makes them think. Participants have a tendency to miss the subtle signs and symptoms the simulator is capable of in trauma scenarios due to the prehospital emphasis on time.
- For career departments, rotating crews throughout the day works well. For volunteer training sessions where everyone will be there at the same time, it is best to have other stations, activities, or skills available for the people during the time they are not participating in a simulation.

What are some examples of effective use of the MSL?

- Standardized Courses – The simulators work quite well for standardized courses such as ACLS and PALS.
- General Education – High risk, low frequency scenarios – synchronized cardioversion (alert or unresponsive patient), pacing, cricothyrotomy, needle decompression, difficult airway management, cardiac arrest, etc.
- Combining the MSL with larger training scenarios (not your first session!):
 - Fire Training – firefighters rescue a (live) downed firefighter from a smoked up training facility and once the victim reaches the MSL the simulator becomes the patient with smoke inhalation and a difficult airway.
 - Project Lifesaver – a Rescue Randy or live person is 'lost' in a park as an autistic child or Alzheimer's patient and once found is brought to the MSL. The simulator can then have a variety of other issues – hypothermia, asthma, anaphylaxis/bee sting, in addition to their underlying condition. <http://www.projectlifesaver.org/>
- Public Relations – The MSL can provide your agency with the opportunity to showcase just what it is you do for your community at chili dinners, safety days, or other public events. This works best if a couple of your EMS personnel (in uniform) 'care' for the patient and hand out promotional material after each scenario.
- Career Days – The MSL can provide your agency with a way to demonstrate what an EMT or paramedic does as a recruiting tool. Again, this works best if your EMS personnel use the MSL as an additional resource to whatever you already do.

How do I schedule the MSL for my agency?

- Check the online Google calendar for available dates. (Generally, you should schedule at least a month in advance to allow for planning.)
 - https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=idhs.msl%40gmail.com&ctz=America/New_York
- Fill out the request form.
- Scan and email the form to the Simulation Technician. (psitgall@dhs.in.gov)
- An electronic copy of your agency's protocols would be very helpful in developing scenarios as medications and permitted procedures vary all over the state.
- The simulation technician will contact you, confirm the dates, and discuss simulation options with you.

Where can I get more information?

- The brochures will give you an idea of the capabilities of the simulators:
 - On the iStan simulator: https://caehealthcare.com/home/eng/product_services/product_details/istan
 - On the PediaSIM simulator: https://caehealthcare.com/home/eng/product_services/product_details/pediasim
- The Simulation Story: <http://www.emsworld.com/article/10322685/the-simulation-story>
- Florida News Story: <http://youtu.be/ntlG64a5B60>
- iStan on Grey's Anatomy: <http://youtu.be/sS8D8sYLXww>
- Bring me to life: <http://youtu.be/4rBsQPOkZw4>
- University of Cumbria: http://youtu.be/q_L7S3rfiiU
- High Tech Training Preps Agency: <http://www.emsworld.com/article/10611124/high-tech-training-preps-agency>